

Fighter. One of the challenges of these missions was the weather, as Captain Martini described in his letters from France: "It's the worst weather to fly in. We've lost four boys in bad weather flying . . . The weather man said the ceiling was 700 ft. but I believe he meant 70 ft. because as soon as we got air borne we lost sight of the ground. Well, we climbed up through the stuff and got above it a 5,000 ft. and proceeded to the target. Once over the target area it was clear. We bombed a rail bridge and knocked it out. Then started home. Well, over the base it was raining and we were flying right on the tree tops and could hardly see the ground. Lucky we found a field on the way home and we landed . . . That's the kind of weather we run into and lose good men in it. Sometimes we climbed from ground to 20,000 ft. in solid clouds before we break out of it. Boy, that's hard on your nerves."

In 1998 France allowed one of its highest honors to be awarded to Veterans from Allied Countries fighting in defense of France. Today, Mr. Martini receives the Medal of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor by Deputy Consul General Mrs. Corinne Pereira.

After his military career, Mr. Martini returned to his trade as a plumber. For many years he ran "Reliable Plumbing" and he has trained just about every plumber on the coast.

Mr. Martini is the loving husband of Cathy Martini and proud father of his son, Mark Martini.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Captain Martini for his service to our country and our Allies on the day he receives the Medal of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, April 1, 2011.

INTRODUCING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS NETWORK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce several pieces of legislation to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. Marylanders have a strong tradition of environmental advocacy rooted in a passion for the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay is our Nation's largest estuary and, in many ways, the soul of my home state. It is a national environmental treasure and an economic catalyst for Maryland's tourism and seafood industries.

Unfortunately, the Bay's health has been negatively impacted by multiple factors, most notably nutrient runoff from our neighborhoods, farms and roadways. The legislation I am introducing today will help restore the Bay by enhancing outdoor recreation, improving access to the Bay, expanding environmental education, rehabilitating vital wetlands and providing incentives for citizens to make their homes more "Bay friendly."

The first bill would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. This legislation is identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote during the 110th and 111th Congresses. Since 2000, Gateways

has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. For a very modest investment, the Gateways program helps promote citizen stewardship that will be necessary to advance Bay cleanup and maintain the gains we hope to make in the coming years.

I am also introducing the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2011, which reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office that provides much of the scientific expertise to support Bay restoration. This legislation also authorizes NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) program which provides environmental education grants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Finally, the bill enhances the Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy System (CBIBS), which provides vital scientific and historical information to boaters, scientists and teachers about conditions in the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act also passed the House of Representatives during the 111th Congress by a bipartisan vote.

The third bill would strengthen and expand the Army Corps of Engineers' role in Chesapeake Bay restoration—a mission they first began in 1996. It would provide the Corps with continuing authority to engage in this work; expand the Corps' work to all six states in the Bay watershed and the District of Columbia; and provide flexibility for the Corps to work with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and not-for-profit groups engaged in Bay cleanup. The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, which was established in section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 1996, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide design and construction assistance to state and local authorities in the environmental restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. These projects range from shoreline buffers to oyster reef construction.

The final piece of legislation is the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2011. This legislation would allow the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, such as installing rain barrels or reducing fertilizer on their lawns, that home could be designated a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home." The legislation further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation.

To truly save the Chesapeake Bay, we need the 17 million people who live in the Bay's wa-

tershed to become citizen stewards of the streams and rivers in their community. If each individual within the watershed were to contribute to clean-up efforts, even in small ways, the aggregate would yield significant results in moving Bay restoration forward.

Mr. Speaker, these four pieces of legislation will help improve the federal government's role in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting each of these pieces of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RIO GRANDE SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition. The Coalition serves the Paso del Norte region which includes the City of El Paso, Texas, Southern New Mexico and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico to build a safe drug-free environment for youth and adults. I want to honor the members of this Coalition for their tireless efforts in making a positive difference in our nation.

By implementing substance abuse preventative strategies within these communities, the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition helps individuals to avoid the negative consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. In order to do this effectively, the Coalition proactively identifies unsafe conditions in the community that contribute to the problem of substance abuse, and implements programs that aim to stop the behaviors creating these conditions. One such example is the Communities Against Reckless Endangerment or CARE initiative.

The CARE initiative was established in 2002 by the Coalition in response to troubling data from University Medical Center of El Paso and the El Paso Police Department regarding alcohol-related incidents among youth ages 12–17. The Coalition's response to this problem was to build a program that engages high school students to become part of the solution through peer-to-peer learning and educational awareness campaigns that warn of the dangers of substance abuse. Through this initiative, which was funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Program and monitored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, high school students created public service announcements and billboards aimed at preventing alcohol and drug abuse.

Since the establishment of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition in 1999, there have been a number of initiatives to prevent and combat substance abuse. Initiatives include Operation B.R.I.D.G.E., which helped curb the problem of underage drinking by local teens who would cross into Mexico to consume alcohol, and the "DARE 2 CARE," campaign that placed warnings at convenience store windows and on alcohol packages throughout El Paso regarding unsafe and illegal consumption of alcohol.

The efforts of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition have helped save the lives and improve the health of countless individuals in the community. Today, I am proud to recognize their efforts in improving the quality of life

for youth and adults living in the Paso del Norte region, and congratulate the Coalition for recently marking 10 years of community collaboration.

CENTER FOR MEDICARE
ADVOCACY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Center for Medicare Advocacy's 25th anniversary and recognize their staff that has worked tirelessly on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries in Connecticut and around the country.

In 1986, the Center for Medicare Advocacy was founded in Mansfield, Connecticut by Judy Stein who has been a fierce advocate and leader for quality health care for Medicare beneficiaries. Over the past 25 years, Judy has transformed the Center into an unparalleled, national education and advocacy organization that supports Medicare beneficiaries. Today, the Center serves as an invaluable resource for our constituents and provides us with much needed, quality information on Medicare policies.

With a team of attorneys, nurses, legal assistants, and information management specialists, the Center for Medicare Advocacy works to provide assistance to seniors by simplifying Medicare policies and challenging the Medicare system to provide affordable quality health care with due process and rights of appeal. The Center offers consultations, training, and education to individuals and organizations in order to promote an affordable and fair Medicare system.

My colleagues and I owe Judy and the Center much gratitude for their vigilance of Medicare and the millions of beneficiaries it serves. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize their fine work and celebrate 25 years of service and many more to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABRAHAM
BREEHEY, 1976–2011

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform my colleagues that Abraham Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, passed away yesterday, Thursday, April 14, 2011 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church, Virginia, from complications related to a brain tumor and subsequent stroke.

Abe, only 34 years old, was born in 1976 in Binghamton, New York. He is survived by his wife, Sonya and beloved young daughter, Abigail, his father Ray, his mother Carol, his sister Rachel, 3 nieces, a nephew and, of course, his dog Kesey.

His death is a tragedy for his family and a loss for the working men and women of America on whose behalf he was so deeply committed.

Abe received his Bachelor's Degree from Siena College in Loudonville, NY and Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany. Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, he served as Legislative Assistant for Representative LLOYD DOGGETT (TX–25).

Abe was a leading voice in the labor movement, representing the Boilermakers on issues related to energy policy and climate change, and their impact on workers. He was widely respected for his passion, intellect, and ability to build consensus across ideological and political lines.

Abe has testified in front of multiple U.S. Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Abe also advised the AFL–CIO Building and Construction Trades Department as Chairman of the Department's Legislative Task Force.

And Abe is a graduate of the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School.

A staunch advocate on behalf of every Boilermaker member, Abe was a colleague and a friend to each of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Breehey family. I hope they receive a small degree of comfort in knowing that Abe was so well liked and so well respected in his professional world.

HONORING CERRITOS
COUNCILMEMBER LAURA LEE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Laura Lee for her 8 years of public service to the people of Cerritos, California.

Laura and her husband Charles have called Cerritos home since 1979 and raised their two talented children in the city. Prior to her election to the Cerritos City Council in 2003, Laura had been an active member of the community and served as a city planning commissioner from 1999 to 2001. As a testament to her leadership, the residents of Cerritos elected Laura to serve the maximum amount of terms, fulfilling the duties of Mayor once and Mayor Pro Tempore twice.

Throughout her tenure on the Cerritos City Council, Laura worked tirelessly with her fellow councilmembers to launch the city to new heights. During Laura's tenure on the city council, Cerritos experienced unmatched growth, including the addition of a fitness center at the city's Senior Center, the erection of a beautiful sculpture garden, and the construction of the Fountain Walk senior housing community.

Under 2008, with Laura's leadership, the City of Cerritos received the prestigious All-America City Award. Laura also worked to ensure Cerritos remains a place where small businesses thrive, helping the City to earn "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" recognition by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Laura's passion for serving others extended well beyond her Council duties. She has

served as director of the American Red Cross Long Beach Chapter Board, advisor of the Su Casa Domestic Abuse Network, director general of the Southern California Chinese Women's League, and a steadfast volunteer at the Cerritos Senior Center. A real estate broker by trade, Laura has also led the Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors as president and served as chairwoman of the Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity Committee of the California Association of Realtors.

Perhaps Laura's most profound contribution to Cerritos is her immeasurable kindness and compassion. Her heart has always made certain her decisions at the City Council dais were generous as well as pragmatic. Her smile is ever present and exemplifies the city's vibrancy. It is with great pleasure that I commend Laura for her dedication to public service and leadership by example.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
CHILDREN'S BUDGET ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Forest Witcraft is reported to have said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Children make up one-quarter of our population, and they form the foundation of our nation's future. Every parent hopes that their children will fare better than they did—achieve more, experience greater success, and realize the American Dream more fully. As policymakers, we have the ability and responsibility to provide a strong foundation for our youngest citizens to grow into the achievers and leaders of tomorrow.

Today, I introduce the Children's Budget Act. It is a bill that is simple in concept—require the President to provide a detailed account of all the Federal funding for children and children's programs. What funding do we actually spend on children? Are we properly addressing the national needs and problems confronting children? Accounting for Federal dollars in this way will help us understand how well we are making the health and well-being of our children a national priority.

Currently, even experienced policy analysts have a difficult time determining how much the government invests in children, and therefore how the needs of our children might better be addressed. A few independent groups—such as First Focus, the Brookings Institution, and the Urban Institute—have worked to understand the Federal investment in our children. It is only through their efforts that we have been able to comprehend how recent Federal funding choices have affected children. For example, the children's advocacy group First Focus recently commissioned a report by the Urban Institute to detail how Federal spending on children has changed over the past 45 years. The results of the Kids Share report were startling. In 1960, the children's share of Federal domestic spending—tax policies included—was 20.1 percent. In 2009, that share had declined to 14 percent—a 30.3 percent overall decline. Together, the Democratically-